



March 31, 2008

The Honorable John Dingell
Chairman, Energy and Commerce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC

The Honorable Tim Murphy
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC

Dear Chairman Dingell and Representative Murphy:

On behalf of the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), the largest professional organization of teachers, administrators, parents, and others concerned with the education of children with disabilities and/or gifts and talents, I am pleased to write in support of the *Protecting the Medicaid Safety Net Act of 2008* (H.R. 5613). We strongly support this legislation which would place a temporary moratorium on Medicaid regulations that directly impact children with disabilities, their families and the professionals who work on their behalf.

This legislation will extend the current moratorium on regulations issued by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) which seek to eliminate reimbursement to schools and early intervention programs for transportation and administrative claims for Medicaid eligible children with disabilities. If enacted, these regulations would eliminate federal funds for administrative services, such as outreach, enrollment assistance, coordination of health care services, and related activities by school personnel to enroll eligible children in Medicaid. The regulations also seek to reverse current policy that allows federal funds to be used for reimbursement of transportation costs for children with disabilities who receive health care services at school. Current estimates indicate that, if enacted, these regulations would cost school districts \$3.6 billion from FY 2009-2013. By shifting this burden to school districts and states that are already financially spread thin, CEC is concerned that the result would be a cut in services for children with disabilities.

On behalf of CEC's 40,000 members, thank you for your leadership on behalf of children with disabilities. We look forward to working with you to advance this critical legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deborah A. Ziegler".

Deborah Ziegler
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